

District 1
By Zachary A.

I hope to continue my education beyond high school to get a career, to be more knowledgeable and to meet new people.

There are careers out in the world where a bachelor's or master's degree is needed for that job. If you don't have these qualifications, you will not get that job, even if you have the skills. Other people who have attended college and earned their degree will be more successful in the career they are pursuing.

Knowledge can be found any where in the world, but to get the career that I want, the home that I want to live in and to be able to provide for my family financially, I want to go to college to have the opportunity to be successful. Right now my career goal is to be a teacher, but by attending college, it will give me more varieties of choices on other careers that I didn't know about. College will give me the knowledge of all opportunities out there.

Meeting new people in college is a good way to develop my network of support and to learn from others. People from all over the world could attend the college I am going to attend. I can learn from them about their culture and way of life. My eyes and mind can be open to other opportunities. My mom always says, "You will meet some of your lifelong friends in college." I think this is true because I will be able to meet people who are interested in the same goals as I am.

As you can see, I want to attend college to get a great career, become more knowledgeable and to meet new people. I want to have a step above all of those people who don't decide to go to college.

District 2
By: Jillian T.

I would like to continue my education further because in my family, higher education is extremely important. When I'm older I would like to be either a teacher or a doctor, and there have been many teachers that have strongly influenced me in a positive way.

My mom is a diabetic, a single parent, and works double shifts practically every week, trying to raise my brother and I. But once I can go to college, we may not have the money to send me there, so the money I could earn could really help me out.

This money could help me out in my future, when I am possibly a mom; because I could get a good paying job and I could raise my kids easier. And to me, all the people in my future, also need a higher education.

In this day and age, many Americans *need* to go to college, and I'm one that intends to go. Because it will help me get a better job, make good money for my family, and be smarter with a higher education, which is what all America needs, from everyone.

Not a lot of my family members have been to college, although my mom has been. However, she couldn't go on because she was pregnant with my brother. She still thinks that it is very important that she goes back to school and my brother and I go on with school, throughout college.

With my mom, and my family, struggling with money, I sometimes go with my mom to work and help out to earn money, so I can help pay for food that we need if my mom doesn't have enough. But it's not always easy, especially being young.

One of the most important things to me is going to college and helping my family. Which the money could help with both, which would make me very happy. If my dream to be a doctor did come true, I would first figure out a cure for my mom's diabetes, so she can have an easier life. But to be a doctor I need to have a college education. And to get a college education I need money. And if I could get a little money to help out with that, I would be extremely grateful and so happy.

If I can go to college, and be responsible enough to spend my money wisely, life would be so much easier for me. So if I could continue my education beyond high school, it will definitely help my future, and is my biggest goal for my future. Although with not a lot of money, a single, diabetic parent, I might not be able to go to college. But with a little help of two thousand five hundred dollars in my savings, I may have it easier to get in. That is why I hope to continue my education beyond high school.

District 3
By: Kaitlyn S.

When I was sitting in my desk at school I thought to myself, “What do I want to be when I grow up?” Then the thought hit me, I want to be a surgical technician.

I know going into a job in the medical field would require me to continue my education after high school. So, right then and there I knew that I would go to college and become successful in my career choice.

When I walk through those doors in high school, I’ll walk in there with confidence and think to myself, “Here I am, ready to continue my educational journey.”

A few days later the thought popped into my head again. This time I thought about, “What if I did terrible in high school and didn’t get accepted by a college and then what would I do?” So I made a promise to myself, “Never let anything discourage me to follow my educational dreams.”

My mind stayed on the subject for quite some days and all I could think about was my career choice, a surgical technician. Maybe I should be a lawyer, maybe a marine biologist, possibly an archeologist. To make sure my mind was set on being a surgical technician, I went to the library to check out books about the different body systems. After skimming through the books, I was positive that I wanted to be a surgical technician.

A few days later, when I told my family about my career choice, they just said, “That’s a good job; you’ll make a lot of money.” Even though that was a true statement, I didn’t pick that job to make money. I picked that career because I am interested in the medical field.

Why I hope to continue my education beyond high school seems like a hard question, but it’s not. In my opinion, that means you go to college, graduate, and become successful in your career choice. I learned that it’s more than becoming successful in your career choice. It means that when you go to college or any other educational authority you can make a difference. That’s why I’ve been telling you about my career choice, because who knows what I could discover. I could discover some medical cure or something amazing. It just doesn’t have to be a person in the medical field, like I hope to be. It could be a lawyer, marine biologist, or an archeologist.

To summarize what I’m saying, it just means to follow your educational dreams, make your parents proud and try to make a difference in the world.

Grand Prize Winner

District 4

By: Tyler Y.

Can you picture the first Hmong news reporter ever to broadcast sports on ESPN? Someone who's short, educated, and speaks English fluently in front of your TV? That Hmong reporter will be me. I don't hope but I know it will be me. My name is Tyler and I am 10 years old. I am raised by a single mom for many years, and she speaks English pretty well. My grandma and grandpa also help my mom raise me too but they speak broken English.

My mom says that my grandma and grandpa talk similar to Ebonics; but with a heavy accent and incorrect usage of grammar and pronunciation. In my Hmong culture we call it "*broken English*." In school I struggle a lot in English class. I am bi-lingual and it is hard to understand two different languages. I sometimes cannot pronounce the English words correctly. I want to learn how to speak English fluently. I want to become a celebrity news reporter. I know it will take a lot of effort and I have to go to college.

My mother went to college but never finished. My grandma and grandpa never went to college not even high school. I have to be a good role model for my brothers. I want to make my mom proud and me too. My mom always told me that education is everything. She says that I should keep feeding my brain with knowledge. That way my brain will be healthy and smart. I told my mom that I will go to college and make a lot of money and take care of her.

I have to read everyday so it will help me speak English well. When I go to college, I will take some communication and writing classes to learn how to speak and write proper English. I need to continue to learn to speak well in front of people too. My mom tells me that going to college is the American Dream. This is why everyone should go to college.

District 5
By: Cole W.

I think that getting an education beyond high school is very important in everybody's life. Whether you want to raise a family or want a good job, education is important. Knowledge is power that can never be taken away from you by anybody.

One of the first and most important reasons is getting a well paying job. After high school kids just start thinking about careers, they need to start thinking about this stuff beforehand. You can say to yourself, "I know that I am going to go to college and I am going to go to medical school and become a doctor." Instead of, "I don't know what I'm going to do." If you get an education past high school you will most likely succeed in finding an appropriate job, and might be able to raise a family.

Raising families leads me to another point. If you don't get an education beyond high school you are most likely not going to raise a family in the nice clean neighborhood you want, because you cannot afford that kind of housing. If you make the right choice and go to college you will be able to have a job where you can afford to have that nice house, but if you do not make the right choice and chose not to go to college you will most likely get a worse job and an okay home in a not so good neighborhood. Going to college is great for learning, and knowledge is power, and it plays a very important role in your life.

Knowledge is your superhero power, and no one can take that amazing little power away from your brain. Many people think that school is dumb and pointless...actually I used to be one of those people. School is so important in your life, say you want to be a professional basketball player and you don't think that you need art class. Art class teaches you way more than you think. When you are practicing blind contour, you learn hand eye coordination...a skill you definitely use in playing basketball. I think that all kids throughout grades 1-12 should stop and realize how important teachers and school is in their lives. Kids like that should stop saying do I have to go to school today, little boys and girls in Africa beg to go to school and ask for homework. College would mean the world to them and it should to you.

Why do I hope to continue my education beyond high school? My answer to that is because I want to finish college and become an Anesthesiologist. I want to raise a family in a nice home. The last reason is that I want to continue a great life.

District 6
By: Natasha B.

I want to continue school beyond high school because I would like to have a good job that I know is good for me. I also hope to have a job that I know I will be able to keep because of economic reasons. I want it because it would pay me the amount that I should if I am working harder or working more than other people. I also think it would be good if my job helped me be a good citizen and people could look up to me.

I want the money, I know I can spend on my needs and still have enough for things I want. I wish to help my family with staying on track of bills or anything that is important. I think that having a savings would be something to have because then I know that I will be able to keep track of my money saving and spending.

I would also like to have success in my life. I hope to get into a good college for my education. I would also want to finish school because I want to be the one in my family to go and finish school. And I want people to think of me as a helper of that community and know I am a good person. I hope that part would help me get a house and other things.

I enjoy learning new things. I would like to learn things that I don't know or to learn more about something that I know a little bit of. I want to be that person that needs help with some things and that person who will help others too. I hope to see new and different things that will help change a little bit in the world. For example take pollution because there is too much of it in the world. Animals are dying because of it. I really hope that some day everybody will help to stop pollution. It would really make a difference in the world not only to the animals but to all citizens of every state and every country.

District 7
By: Jackson H.

The EdVest Scholarship is something that would help me reach my goals. One of my major goals in life is to get a good education so that I can change my life and help my parents have a good life too.

I've had lots of practice in learning about goal setting at my school, Grove Elementary in central Wisconsin. For example, my high school graduation date, 2015, is posted above my classroom door. In our hallways we have banners with the following important slogans: **"Believe"**, **"Achieve"**, and **"Succeed"**. Every Friday, we wear t-shirts that say "Yes I Can...And I Will" and every nine weeks we set goals for reading and math. I've already reached my three reading goals for second quarter! All these things have helped me realize how having a positive, "can do" attitude and a willingness to work hard can positively impact my life.

Unfortunately, my mom and dad did not have the same opportunities that I have had. Life was hard for them in Thailand. My mom and dad did not have the opportunity to go to school because they didn't have the resources.

It is important for me to win the EdVest Scholarship because my family seems to always be having financial problems even though both my mom and dad work hard. My parents work on the weekends. I barely get to see them on Saturday or Sunday. Putting money into a college fund isn't something that my family could do right now.

If my family tried to help pay my college fees, they would not have enough money for their basic needs, such as food, shelter, and clothing. My mom and dad work hard just to keep food in our bellies.

Stress is commonplace in my home. My mom is always telling us, "I'm not a good mom. I can't even buy you anything." Besides these frustrations, my brother is always going out which causes my mom to have even more stress. My mom cries every day and every night just because of him. I hate watching her cry like that and I get angry with my brother for causing my mom more worries.

If I received the scholarship money, I would be the first in my Hmong family to go to college. By going to college, I could get the skills I need to reach my dreams. The scholarship money would not only change my life, but it would help my parents have a good life too. Thank you for considering me for the EdVest Scholarship. I sincerely **believe** that the scholarship will help me **achieve** my goals and **succeed** in life.

District 8
By: Kyle T.

I desire to carry on with my education beyond high school because I want to get a high quality job. I do not want to be wasting opportunities in a place where I cannot use my strengths to my advantage. Instead I want to be in a good environment where it is challenging and where I can live up to my potential.

College education is important to me for many different reasons. First of all, many jobs require that you have a college degree to even apply for the job. For example, teachers, astronauts, and doctors all need to continue their education beyond high school. My next reason is that I could learn about many different places, events and cultures because there are many diverse people from different backgrounds. Continuing my studies in college would also help me become more independent and prepare me for living on my own.

One of the careers that most interests me is an architect. I think it would be fun and a good fit for me because I enjoy doing math and am good at it. I also really like to draw. I would need a good math education to become an architect because there is a great deal of math involved in being an architect. I would have to take college classes for designing buildings and drawing plans because they are the key skills an architect needs.

I recently took a trip with my class to see the State Capitol building in Madison. I thought it was neat because of all the old artwork and fancy designs. I thought the Capitol must have been made from quality stone and woodwork because it has lasted for all this time. It would be a challenge to plan and construct such a beautiful and complex building.

One of my favorite hobbies is to read books. I recently read *The Wright Three* by Blue Balliett which is about saving the Robie House from being destroyed. The Robie House was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright who was an architect from Wisconsin. I liked the way Frank Lloyd Wright designed the Robie House because he used lots of squares and rectangles popping out of various places. He was creative and did not design ordinary structures. I would like to learn my own way of making creative designs. I hope that by taking classes and studying architecture in college that someday I will be able to design my own structures.

Another thing college would give me is a good reputation. Since many people have gone to college, high school graduates are almost expected to continue their education. Going to college is also just plain fun.

Thank you for reading my essay and considering it for the prize. You must have put a large amount of time and effort into this! I hope that everybody in America has a chance to attend college someday.